

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOUREN 00902 281315Z

45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 DRC-01 /086 W

----- 109366

R 281200Z DEC 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2279

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY GUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 0902

E.O. 12652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MILI, MZ

SUBJECT: COMMANDING GENERAL SPENDS CHRISTMAS AT THE FRONT

REF: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 760 OF DECEMBER 27, 1972 (*OTAL)

(B) LOURENCO MARQUES 009 OF JANUARY 4, 1972

1. AS HAS BY NOW BECOME A TRADITION, MOZAMBIQUE'S COMMANDING GENERAL BASTO MACHADO AND HIS WIFE SPENT CHRISTMAS DAY WITH THE TROOPS THIS YEAR AT MAGOE VELHO AND FINGOE IN TETE DISTRICT, SPENDING NIGHT AT LATTER. GENERAL NACHADO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY NAVY COMMANDER ADMIRAL MOURA DA FONSECA, BY CHIEF OF STAFF BRIGADIER JOAO DOS SANTOS CORREIA AND THEIR WIVES, AS WELL AS COMMANDER OF OETE MILITARY ZONE, RODRIGO DA SILVEIRA.

2. WHILE THESE POSTS ARE NOT AS CLOSE TO ZAMBIAN BORDER AS THOSE VISITED IN PREVIOUS YEARS BY FORMER COMMANDER IN CHIEF KAULZA DE ARRIAGA, THEY ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY AREAS AND VISIT IS MEANT TO SERVE SAME MORALE-BOLSTERING PURPOSE.

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EM COMMENT: IN CARRYING ON TRADITION OF SPENDING CHRISTMAS WITH THE TROOPS, THERE *RE NOTABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GENERAL MACHAD*'S STYLE OF OPERATING AND THE MORE FLAMBOYANT METHODS OF HIS PREDECESSOR. MACHADO'S RETINUE WAS ONLY FRACTION OF THE SIZE OF THAT NORMALLY ACCOMPANYING DE ARRIAGA. PRESS COVERAGE BARELY AMOUNTED TO TWO FULL COLUMNS RATHER THAN THE SEVERAL PAGE SPREAD NORMALLY DEVOTED TO DE ARRIAGA'S TRIPS. ALL THIS IS IN LINE WITH MACHADO'S EVIDENT ATTEMPT, WITHOUT NEGLECTING PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECT, TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF NO-NONSENSE ATTENTION TO BUSINESS AND STRAIGHT FORWARD SOLDIERING, THUS COUNTERING CRITICISM OF WHAT MANY CONSIDERED OVEREMPHASIS ON PUBLICITY AND OVEREXPENDITURE OF BOTH FUNDS AND PERSONNEL ON CEREMONIAL ASPECTS OF THE JOB DURING PREDECESSOR'S TOUR.

VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, PUBLIC RELATIONS, HOLIDAYS, MILITARY VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOUREN00902
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973123/aaaaabzp.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) LOURENCO MARQUES 760 OF DECEMBER
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <29-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMANDING GENERAL SPENDS CHRISTMAS AT THE FRONT
TAGS: PINS, MILI, MZ, (MACHADO, BASTO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005